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THE DETROIT SESSION

The Detroit session goes down in history as one of the most interesting and largely attended of any in recent years. New sections on Urology, Chest, Gynecology and Obstetrics, and Radiology were organized.

The clinical day at Ann Arbor was an unprecedented affair, the "highlights" of which are sketched in Dr. A. C. Terrence's letter on page 233.

Dr. H. H. Walker of Nashville is President Elect. Dr. Walker's biography will appear in the next issue.

Another unprecedented event was the visit of Dr. George F. Lull of the American Medical Association.

Although Dr. Leo Butler's report indicated a majority of the constituency as opposing compulsory health insurance, the House of Delegates voted to carry over the matter until a later date. Dr. C. Austin Whittier in his presidential address

avored compulsory health insurance.

Dr. Peter M. Murray's election to the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association from New York State represents an epochal advance in American life. (Dr. Murray's biography appears in this issue on page 232).

Further reports on the 1949 meeting will appear in the November issue.

THE GENEVA HIPPOCRATIC OATH

At its second general assembly conference in Geneva, Switzerland, Sept. 8-11, 1948, the World Medical Association adopted a revised and modern version of the ancient Hippocratic oath. It was couched in the following words:

"Now being admitted to the profession of medicine, I solemnly pledge to consecrate my life to the service of humanity.

"I will give respect and gratitude to my deserving teachers. I will practice medicine with conscience and dignity. The health and life of my patient will be my first consideration. I will hold in confidence all my patient confides in me. I will maintain the honor and

the noble traditions of the medical profession.

"My colleagues will be as my brothers. I will not permit considerations of race, religion, nationality, party politics or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient."*

"I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of its conception. Even under threat I will not use my knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity. These promises I make freely and upon my honor."

The sentiments contained in and enjoined by this pledge are worthy of the study and approval of every prospective and practicing physician. As the chief minority victims of pronounced discrimination, it is especially incumbent upon Negro doctors to familiarize themselves with its wording and meaning. We should pledge ourselves to become worthy of its privileges and protection by setting an example in the observance of its responsibilities.

If this pledge is to be faithfully honored before the court of world opinion, it should mean that all ethical, qualified physicians, regardless of creed or color, will be eligible to membership in the American Medical Association. It should mean that no longer will consultation privileges be withheld from any ethical physician because of racial prejudice. No longer should he or his patients be denied first class hospital facilities or be the victims of studied discourtesy and deliberate insult because of their race or religion.

It should be possible for all ethical physicians, whether they be white, black, yellow, brown or red, to go forward together as brothers in science without implication or fear of the southern bugaboo that this necessarily means becoming brothers-in-law.

Some day perhaps the Geneva spirit of medical brotherhood may invade the citadel of the American Medical Association and cause it to abolish the dishonorable sectional barriers against qualified Negro physicians. This would put into practice the brotherhood we so glibly preach. It would be a needed example of democracy in action. It would bring hope and inspiration to many discouraged victims of prejudice and discrimination. It would unify the ranks of American medicine. Anything less than this is hypocrisy before the world.

The quality and standards of the ethics in the World Medical Association will be no stronger

or better than those of the weakest link in the associated component nations. It is a paradox that America, which led the fight to establish democracy abroad, should now be the outstanding nation to exemplify at home and would even disseminate abroad a racism as evil as that which it sought to destroy in Germany. Here in America itself there is a great and timely need for a creed of true brotherhood such as that embodied in the Geneva pledge.

The members of the National Medical Association are ready to accept the Geneva pledge in spirit and in deed. We will do our full duty in the fulfillment of this ethical and spiritual renaissance. To the great body of American organized medicine we pose the question in the words of Joseph Cotter:

"Brother, come
And let us go unto our God,
And when we stand before Him
I shall say:
'Lord, I do not hate;
I am hated.
I scourge no one;
I am scourged.
I covet no lands;
My lands are coveted.
I mock no peoples;
My people are mocked.'
And brother, what will you say?"

* Italics are the Editor's.

CANCER CENTERS AND TUMOR CLINICS

The recent deaths from cancer of three noted men, an ex-mayor, a sports writer and an ex-baseball player, have served to dramatize an intensive drive against this Public Enemy Number One. As consequence, vigorous action against cancer is bringing encouraging results.

This action has included a flood of informative publications, radio talks and public lectures. Gratifying results are evidenced in an intensified concentration of research, and the establishment of an increasing number of "cancer prevention centers," tumor clinics, and other agencies for early detection and treatment of malignant growths.

Many of these agencies are doing effective work based on an unswerving purpose to achieve a vital objective. The medical profession, the press, the radio and the lay public are giving excellent cooperation to the cancer centers and tumor in-